

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A sewing machine comprising:
a sewing machine body provided with a cassette mount;
a thread cassette having a supply of thread and detachably attached to the cassette mount; and
a moving speed limiting unit limiting a moving speed of the thread cassette when the thread cassette is attached to the cassette mount, the moving speed limiting unit including a moving member capable of moving substantially together with the thread cassette in a course of movement of the thread cassette to a predetermined position in the cassette mount, a rotating member rotated by movement of the moving member, and a rotational resistance applying unit applying rotational resistance to the rotating member.
2. (Currently Amended) A sewing machine according to claim 1, wherein the moving member is the moving speed limiting unit includes a rack which is provided on the thread cassette so as to extend in a predetermined direction, and the rotating member is a pinion which is provided on the sewing machine body so as to mesh the rack, ~~and a rotational resistance applying unit applying rotational resistance to the pinion.~~
3. (Original) A sewing machine according to claim 2, wherein the pinion is displaced between a meshing position where the pinion meshes the rack and a retreat position where the pinion is disengaged from the rack, and the moving speed limiting unit includes a switching mechanism switching the pinion to the meshing position when the thread cassette is attached to the cassette mount and to the retreat position when the thread cassette is detached from the cassette mount.

4. (Original) A sewing machine according to claim 3, wherein the switching mechanism includes a biasing member biasing the pinion to the retreat position, a switching guide member provided on the thread cassette to switch the pinion from the retreat position to the meshing position against a biasing force of the biasing member when the thread cassette is attached to the cassette mount and further to guide the rack.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) A sewing machine according to claim 1, further comprising:
~~—— a sewing machine body provided with a cassette mount;~~
~~—— a threading mechanism passing a thread through an eye of a sewing needle;~~
~~—— an operating force transmitting member moved when an operating force is transmitted from the thread cassette thereto during attachment of the thread cassette, thereby operating the threading mechanism by means of movement thereof; and~~
~~—— a moving speed limiting unit limiting a moving speed of the operating force transmitting member~~
a threading mechanism passing a thread through an eye of a sewing needle and an operating force transmitting member moved when an operating force is transmitted thereto from the thread cassette under movement, thereby operating the threading mechanism by movement thereof.

7. (Currently Amended) A sewing machine according to claim 1, further comprising:
~~—— a sewing machine body provided with a cassette mount;~~
 a thread carrying mechanism carrying a thread ~~near an eye of a sewing needle~~ in order that the thread may be passed through the needle eye; and
 an operating force transmitting member moved when an operating force is transmitted thereto from outside the thread cassette under movement~~carrying mechanism thereto~~, thereby operating the thread carrying mechanism by ~~means of movement thereof; and~~

~~—— a moving speed limiting unit limiting a moving speed of the operating force transmitting member.~~

8. (Currently Amended) A thread cassette comprising:

a cassette body having a supply of thread and detachably attached to a cassette mount provided in a sewing machine; and

a moving speed limiting unit limiting a moving speed of the thread cassette when the thread cassette is attached to the cassette mount, the moving speed limiting unit including a moving member capable of moving substantially together with the thread cassette in a course of movement of the thread cassette to a predetermined position in the cassette mount, a rotating member rotated by movement of the moving member, and a rotational resistance applying unit applying rotational resistance to the rotating member.

9. (Currently Amended) A thread cassette according to claim 8, wherein ~~the moving speed limiting unit includes:~~ the moving member is a rack which is provided on the thread cassette to as to extend in a predetermined direction, and the rotating member is a pinion provided on a sewing machine body so as to mesh the rack, the thread cassette further comprising a switching mechanism switching the pinion so that the pinion meshes the rack and the rack is guided when the thread cassette is attached to the cassette mount and so that the pinion is prevented from meshing the rack when the thread cassette is detached from the cassette mount

~~—— a rack provided on the cassette body;~~

~~—— a pinion provided on the sewing machine body so as to mesh the rack;~~

~~—— a rotational resistance applying unit applying rotational resistance to the pinion; and~~

~~—— a switching mechanism switching the pinion so that the pinion meshes the rack and the rack is guided when the thread cassette is attached to the cassette mount and so that the~~

~~pinion is prevented from meshing the rack when the thread cassette is detached from the cassette mount.~~

10. (Original) A thread cassette according to claim 9, wherein the rotational resistance applying unit uses a liquid to apply the rotational resistance.

11. (Original) A thread cassette according to claim 9, wherein the rotational resistance applying unit uses a gas to apply the rotational resistance.